

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 10, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The period for response having been extended from March 10, 2005 until June 10, 2005 by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, the above amendments to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18-21, and 37, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1, 12, 17, and 22-27 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter in claims 28-31 and 33-36.

Claims 2-11, 13-16, 18-21, 28-31, and 33-37 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, page 2, independent claim 37 was objected to due to minor informalities. Because independent claim 37 has been amended to resolve the minor informality, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claim be withdrawn. Because there are no further objections and/or rejections to independent claim 37, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 37 be allowed.

Claims 1, 11, 17, 21-23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,374, 112 B1 to Widegren et al. (Widegren). Claims 12, 24, 26, and 27 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Widegren.

Claims 2-10, 13-16, and 18-20 have been acknowledged to include allowable subject matter. However, these claims have also been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Because claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 14, 16, and 18-20 have been amended into independent form incorporating the recitations of their respective independent base claim and because claims 1, 12, 17, and 22-27 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, it is respectfully asserted that the rejections to claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 18-20 and related dependent claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, and 21 are rendered moot in view of the references cited. Thus, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 14, 16, and 18-20 and related dependent claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, and 21 be allowed.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that each of claims 2-11, 13, 14, 16, 18-21, and 37 be found allowable and, along with allowed claims 28-31 and 34-36, this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged
to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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